He has a conſiderable garden, and ſome fields well planted with trees; but, among them all, you can ſcarce find one that wears the common appearance of nature. The garden is laid out in the ſtricteſt and moſt unnatural irregularity. The walks are all of determined figures and ſizes, and always uniform. The trees and ſhrubs are cut into various ſhapes and figures; ſo that they look like ſo many monuments, pyramids, or ſtatues; and the hedges are cut as plain as walls, and ſometimes formed into regular figures of arcades, niches, and the like.

He has ponds, but they are cut into regular figures of ſquares, hexagons, octogons, &c. The trees in the fields are planted in the ſame ſtiff order, and ſuch a ſtrict ſymmetry and uniformity is obſerved throughout the whole, that, if any thing ſhould obſtruct the view, it is painful to the ſight. In ſhort, the whole labour has been, not to follow or improve, but to hide or reſtrain, the innumerable and inimitable beauties of nature.

This contraſt to my rural friend's improvement gave me a very degrading idea of my city friend's taſte. But this was greatly heightened by obſerving his treatment of the animal creation, of which he was equally ſtocked with my friend in the country. He had a curious collection of various kinds of animals, but they were all confined. His beaſts were bound with chains, and his birds ſhut up in cages, of different materials and manufactures, according as the creature was more or leſs eſteemed by its Maſter. I ſaw a poor gentle goldfinch, whoſe ſlender limbs were never deſigned for toil, obliged to work hard for every grain of ſeed, and every drop of water he was allowed for his ſuſtenance; and a modeſt owl, that bird of ſilence and darkneſs, expoſed to a large ſky-light in a noiſy room; while the ſtrong and towering eagle, the hawk, and the raven, were pining in darkneſs and inactivity.

The contraſt between the behaviour of my two friends filled me with ideas of the moſt oppoſite kinds. I could not help comparing the creatures that lived within the incloſures of the former to the ſubjects of a land of liberty, where the Prince is adored for his beneficence, and conſidered as the real father of his people: While thoſe that filled the cages and priſons of the latter diſplayed the miſeries of a deſpotic Government in all its horrors; where the Prince is beheld with terror inſtead of delight, and where no perſon has any thing he can properly call his own. The iron hand of tyranny there holds the ſceptre of deſpotiſm, and the complainings of diſtreſs and miſery are heard throughout the kingdom.

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